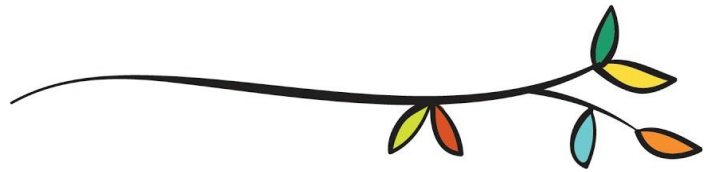


heather cash



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ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a freelance painter and illustrator who creates colorful, whimsical paintings. My aim is to bring joy and happiness to others through the vibrant life of my art. I paint with acrylics on canvas, and love to include happy little forest critters, insects, and trees in the pieces I create.

You can find me teaching canvas painting classes at Claytopia in Erie, painting in my studio, or selling my art at the local art festivals around town. I also illustrated a coloring book, Friendship in the Forest, and a children's book, Treasure Hunt in the Enchanted Forest. If you're ever at the Children's Museum, Erie Zoo, JFK Center, or Salvation Army Community Center, keep an eye out for my murals at these locations.

EXPERIENCE

Following is a selection of some of my most prominent work. For my full portfolio, please visit www.heathercash.com.

"Reading in the Park" Reading Nook Mural Salvation Army, Erie, PA

Summer 2015

During the Summer of 2015 I was commissioned to paint a reading nook in the Salvation Army community center on 11th and Liberty. The project was spearheaded by the Junior League of Erie, and funded by United Way Erie as part of their Reading Buddies program. Rather than focusing on the Imagination Library, like the previous reading nook mural (see previous project), the folks at United Way wanted this to be more along the theme of Reading Buddies.

Project Details

EDUCATION

I got my Bachelors in Computer Science in 2006; the artistic side of me is self-taught.

SKILLS

- Murals
- Painting class instruction
- Acrylic painting on canvas
- Digital illustration

LOCATIONS

You can find my work for sale at the following Erie, PA locations:

- Glass Growers Gallery
- Gallery 104, Edinboro
- Whole Foods Co-Op
- Squeaky Frog Gift Shop, Asbury Woods
- Werner Books
- Claytopia

- The concept I came up with was the idea of “reading in the park.” When you step into the room, you should feel like you just want to sit under a tree and read until you fall asleep.
- United Way requested that I incorporate their Reading Buddies owls into the mural. I decided to have them sitting in a hole in one of the trees.
- One of the challenging aspects of this project was creating a design that worked with the windows. The space is filled with very tall windows, so my design could only be between and above the windows. I came up with a design that had a tree between each window.
- A very fun part of this project was creating different animals reading books with cute, clever titles. For example, a racoon is reading “Thieves and Bandits” while another racoon watches sneakily.

“Cabin in the Woods” Reading Nook Mural

John F. Kennedy Center, Erie, PA

Fall 2014

During the Fall of 2014 I was commissioned to paint the reading nook for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, in the John F. Kennedy Center. The project was spearheaded by the Junior League of Erie, and funded by United Way Erie. The Imagination Library is a program that provides free children’s books to kids 5 and under, and the reading nook would be a library of the books offered.

Project Details

- The concept is inspired by Dolly Parton’s childhood experience with reading. When Dolly was young, her mother would read to her on the porch of their log cabin in the woods.
- I painted one wall to look like the front porch of a log cabin, and the other 3 walls to look like the woods, filled with forest critters. Hills and mountains are seen in the background.
- I painted a tree in each of the two corners opposite the cabin, and volunteers installed bookshelves going up each of the trees. The Junior League decorated the room with cozy cushioned porch furniture.

CLIENTS & COLLABORATORS

I’ve had the great pleasure of working with the following companies:

- Experience Children’s Museum
- Erie Zoo
- Junior League of Erie
- United Way Erie
- PAPA Advertising
- Werkbot Studios
- Funding Factory
- United Way Erie
- Claytopia
- Asbury Woods

EVENTS

You can find me & my work at the following yearly events:

- YWCA Westfield NY Fest
- McDowell Christmas Fest
- Edinboro Art & Music Festival
- Celebrate Erie ChalkWalk
- Barber Center Art Show
- Montessori in the Woods Charity Auction

...as well as many other events throughout the year!

“Four Seasons Forest” Tot Spot Mural
Experience Children’s Museum, Erie, PA
Summer/Fall 2014

During the summer and fall of 2014, I was commissioned to paint a 24’ mural of the four seasons in the Experience Children’s Museum of Erie, PA. The mural was to be colorful and fun while also having some educational elements.

Project Details

- The main subject of the mural is a forest scene featuring all four seasons
- I also incorporated counting into the mural. I included the numbers 1-10, with a critter or plant to count for each number (e.g., 4 butterflies, 2 owls, 10 acorns, etc).
- I also painted the letters of the alphabet climbing up the tree in the summer season.
- I also painted the following coordinating artwork:
 - “Tot Spot” forest animal banner
 - “Kids’ Art Gallery” forest animal banner (where the kids can hang up their artwork)
 - A wall of the “Open Studio” where kids have the option to create their own art
 - 3 digital posters for the Open Studio – Colors in Nature, How to Draw Animals, and Creative Tools.

“Woodland Closeup” Plant & Insect Mural
Erie Zoo, Erie, PA
February 2013

In early 2013, I illustrated a 7’ high, 20’ wide mural for the Erie Zoo. The mural contains various plants and insects to be used as a teaching device. It can be found on the side of the Children’s Learning Center building.

Project Details

- I drew the mural in Adobe Illustrator in vector format
- Mural was printed onto weatherproof vinyl panels & installed on the outside of the Children’s Learning Center building
- The mural consists of various plants (mountain laurel, sunflower, strawberry plant, thistle plant, dandelion), three

phases of a monarch butterfly (caterpillar, cocoon, & butterfly), ant tunnels in the ground, and much, much more.

Acrylic Painting Classes

Claytopia, Erie, PA

2012-present

I teach painting classes at Claytopia in Erie, PA. The classes are acrylic painting on canvas. Each class is step-by-step and focused on a particular painting.

Class Details

- Classes are for all ages - 4 y/o to 80+
- Class size ranges from 10 to 20 students
- Acrylic paints on canvas are used
- Classes are step-by-step

Painting Classes for Cocktails & Color

Erie, PA

2013-present

I teach painting classes for Cocktails & Color, a “mobile” art studio. Classes are held at local bars and are for ages 21+.

Class Details

- Classes are for ages 21+
- Class size is 30-40 students
- Acrylic paints on canvas are used
- Classes are step-by-step

Resident Artist for Asbury Woods

Asbury Woods Nature Center, Erie, PA

Summer 2014 & 2015

During July and August of both 2014 & 2015, I was the Resident Artist for the Asbury Woods Art Nature Camp. I taught an art workshop to kids ranging from grades 3rd through 8th.

- 4 different classes
- 10-20 students per class

2014 Class Details

- Main focus for project was on symmetry
- Taught “vignette” background using acrylics on canvas
- Collected leaves and petals from nature, and arranged in a symmetrical pattern
- Covered with Mod Podge

2015 Class Details

- Main focus for project was acrylic painting techniques
- Taught background blending
- Sea turtle outline - breaking down into basic shapes
- Kids could paint shell in their own creative patterns

Various Art Workshops for Kids

Erie, PA

2012-present

I have run various art workshops for elementary school kids. An art workshop includes a discussion on what it's like to be an artist, different types of artists, and how to prepare to be an artist (schooling, etc). Then, I do a “how to draw” lesson, which usually includes drawing up a scene (underwater, forest, etc), and teaching kids how to break pictures down into simple shapes. Depending on the kids' ages, the lesson may also include concepts such as balance, color, perspective, etc.

Class Details

- Workshops are for elementary school students
- Average class size is about 20 students
- Class is about 1 hour long
- Class includes art discussion and drawing lesson
- Have taught this for Tracy Elementary and Boy Scouts

EcoBuddies Illustrations for Funding Factory

Erie, PA

2012-2013

During 2012 and 2013, Funding Factory hired me to illustrate an entire world of animals for the purpose of teaching kids about the importance of recycling e-waste. This world is called EcoBuddies, and consists of many different animals that live in different environments all over the world. Funding Factory uses the

EcoBuddies characters and their environment on trash bins, educational material, calendars, stickers, lesson plans, and more!

Project Details

- Illustrations were drawn in Adobe Illustrator for optimal scalability
- Character ideas were a collaboration between Funding Factory and myself
- Illustrations are used on trash bins, educational material, and more

Coloring Book Illustration *Friendship in the Forest* Erie, PA 2012

In 2012 I wrote and illustrated a coloring book called Friendship in the Forest. The book is all about how the animals of the forest show each other that they care. It contains 20 illustrations of the animals interacting with a quote below each drawing explaining, “Friends of the forest ...” (e.g., “Friends of the forest hold hands”)

Project Details

- Illustrations were drawn in Adobe Illustrator
- Coloring book teaches the importance of friendship
- Book contains 20 illustrations

Children’s Book Illustration *Treasure Hunt in the Enchanted Forest* Mountain View, CA 2011

I illustrated the book Treasure Hunt in the Enchanted Forest – a children’s book written to teach kids the value of a coin. The story originally involved a grandfather teaching his grandchildren about money – but I suggested to the author that we make it a bit more fun for the kids by using animals as the characters – and the story blossomed into a tale about two owls living in an enchanted forest! The book was published by Big Tent Books and is available on Amazon and other major retailers.

Project Details

- Illustrations were drawn in Adobe Photoshop
- Story features two owls learning about money
- Book contains 32 illustrated pages
- Published by Big Tent Books